

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02341 240851Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /045 W

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R 240744Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3775

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, VT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP POGGI

REF: BUDAPEST 2221

1. BOTH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALDOM AND CATHOLIC CLERGY ARE REALLY MUM ABOUT ARCHBISHOP LUIGI POGGI'S JULY 8-12 VISIT TO BUDAPEST (REFTEL). CHURCH AFFAIRS OFFICE OF GOH HAS UNGRACIOUSLY IGNORED EMBASSY REQUEST TO DISCUSS VISIT.

2. BISHOP JOZSEF KACZIBA, DIRECTOR OF AKCIO CATOLICA TOLD EMBOFF JULY 21 THAT EVEN HE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING POGGI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOH OFFICIALS AND, IN ANY CASE, CHURCH CONSIDERS THIS INFORMATION TO BE "SECRET". KACZIBA DID AGREE THAT IT WAS LOGICAL FOR FOREIGN OBSERVERS TO ASSUME THAT ONE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION WAS APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS FOR ESZTERGOM AND GYOR SEES.

3. BISHOP OF ESZTERGOM IS BY LONG TRADITION PRIMATE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGARY. WITH DEATH OF CARDINAL MINDSZENTY, WE ASSUME THAT VATICAN IS NOW ANXIOUS TO FILL CHAIR THAT WAS UNOCCUPIED BUT NOT QUITE VACANT AS LONG AS HIS EMINENCE LIVED. THERE IS MUCH UNSUBSTANTIATED SPECULATION HERE THAT POGGI MAY HAVE INFORMED HUNGARIAN BISHOPS OF VATICAN'S PREFERENCES SO THAT THEY CAN MEET, VOTE ON MATTER, AND PASS NAMES OF CANDIDATES TO OFFICE

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OF CHURCH AFFAIRS FOR ACCEPTANCE OR VETO BY GOH.

4. ITALIAN EMBOFFS IN BUDAPEST HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION
ON POGGI'S VISIT, BUT THEY ALSO ASSUME HE DISCUSSED
WITH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS APPOINTMENT OF NEW BISHOPS AND
NEURALGIC CARDINAL PRIMATE ISSUE.
MCAULIFFE

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